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Planned Fees for Food Worker Cards going into effect No cost for cards obtained by Sept. 15

August 11, 2010—Food workers have until mid September to get their Alaska food worker card at no cost. On September 15, the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) will begin charging \$10 for all new, renewed and replacement cards. Cards are valid for three years.

DEC will offer a payment system that accepts online credit card and bank fund transfers, as well as payments by mail using a check or money order.

Over 65,000 Food Worker Cards have been issued since the program began in 2006 as part of a campaign to better protect the public from foodborne disease. The program requires employed food handlers to demonstrate a basic knowledge of food safety by passing a food safety exam. The exam and training are offered online and at several locations around the state and were initially free but phasing in a fee once the service was fully functional was planned since the inception.

All food workers employed outside of the Municipality of Anchorage must have a state issued card to be in compliance with Alaska's food code. The Municipality of Anchorage requires their own, separate Food Worker Card.

To take the online test, please visit
<http://alaska.state.ggov.com/foodworker/>.

For more information, please see:
www.dec.state.ak.us/eh/fss/fwc/fwc.htm.

If you have questions, or would like to request a paper version of the test, call 1-877-233-3663 or 907-334-2560.